

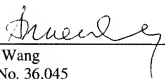
Appln No. 10/706,024
Amdt date February 19, 2008
Reply to Office action of October 16, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action dated October 16, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Griffin, III (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,870) in view of Aldridge (U.S. Patent No. 3,717,839) with extrinsic evidence from Davies, et al., "The Rate Dependence of Confor Polyurethane Foams," Cellular Polymers, vol. 18, no. 2 (1999). However, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite sealing the exit hole with a sealant. None of Griffin, III, Aldridge and Davies teach or suggest such a feature. Accordingly, independent claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-9, are allowable over Griffin, III, Aldridge and Davies.

Claims 1-9 remain pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1, and has amended claims 5 and 6 to be consistent with amended claim 1. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings, and no new matter is presented. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-9 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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